From King Cane to the Last Sugar Mill: Agricultural Technology and the Making of Hawai'i's Premier Crop. By C. Allan Jones and Robert V. Osgood. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2015. xvi + 266 pp. Illustrated. Map. Bibliography. Index. $45.00 cloth

The Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company (HC&S) on Maui was the archipelago's last sugar mill. Its owner is Alexander & Baldwin (A&B), whose financial report for 2012, C. Allan Jones and Robert V. Osgood tell us, identified three concerns that render A&B's future as a sugar producer "uncertain" (p. xvi). It worried about a lack of irrigation water, a fall in sugar prices through domestic or foreign competition, and a rise in production costs—from normal or catastrophic weather, plant diseases and pests, equipment failures, or the scarcity and wages of sufficiently skilled workers (p. 224). Every one of these concerns, Jones and Osgood show in their comprehensive book, would have been a familiar worry to HC&S and A&B when they were founded in the nineteenth century.

From King Cane to the Last Sugar Mill begins with the introduction of sugarcane to Hawai'i by its first settlers, but it is perhaps best understood as a retrospective view of how HC&S became the Hawaiian industry's sole survivor. The book's structure is chronological, demarcated by dates that testify to Hawai'i's embeddedness in global economic and political networks: 1875, 1898, 1929. Each chapter is usefully divided into thematic sections and subsections on labor, planting, harvesting, fertilizing, irrigation, machinery, and so on. The authors' background as agricultural scientists and even as "sugarcane enthusiast[s]" (p. vii) lets them expose all the constitutive parts of the sugar-production system in detail. Drawing on historical sugar textbooks, bulletins, almanacs, and manuals, as well as extensive contemporary scientific literature, Jones and Osgood have collected and presented a colossal amount of information.

An important conclusion that emerges from all this information is that enormous changes took place in the technology and labor of sugar production after its "mechanization" and "industrialization" of the late nineteenth century. Too often, histories of sugar—grounded, for all the right reasons, in labor history and the history of slavery—treat industrial sugar mills as black boxes, as though nothing changed after steam-powered rollers and vacuum pans. As the historian of technology David Edgerton has pointed out, however, the history of technology is mostly not a story of the new and disruptive, but of the old and improved. Here, again, the authors' scientific and technological training attunes them to the ways that a century of individually minor innovations might accumulate to make sugar production a remarkably different business. "Hawai'i probably had the most technically advanced

sugar industry in the world" in the early twentieth century (p. 117), but the automation of HC&S in 2014 would have astonished its managers and workers in 1900. And not all "technical advances" move in the expected direction. It is remarkable to see, for instance, that the adoption of mechanized harvesting actually resulted in higher sucrose losses through "dirty" loads of cane (p. 155), but that the vastly reduced wages for field hands outweighed the escaping sugar.

I only wished that the authors had applied their expertise more often. The book contains a staggering amount of raw, unprocessed detail, and Jones and Osgood are singularly qualified to refine it for a wider audience. Too much space is taken up, however, for instance, giving the dimensions of water ditches to the foot and their costs to the dollar. Jones and Osgood have usefully collated these numbers from a range of primary sources, but I regretted that the data were presented in the flow of the text, rather than in tables or graphs, of which there were too few. One alternative might have been to assign most numerical data to appendices, freeing the text for more of the authors' own insights and analysis.

At times it even seems as though the authors themselves got disoriented by the flood of information. The coverage of sections and subsections within a chapter often overlaps, and different chapters repeat material. So, for instance, "massecuite" is defined as the French for "cooked mass" on pages 86 and 154, and drip irrigation is described at length on page 190, then again on pages 205–206.

As mentioned above, the book's wide survey of the factors of sugar production is largely to its credit. My concern with this stance would be the disservice it does to human toil. As the book progresses, labor increasingly appears as a cost to be economized, rather than as the essential contribution of actual human beings to Hawai'i's botanical bounty. Piece work, for instance, is described using the words of a 1931 industry observer, as "a powerful incentive to efficient, persistent, faithful effort" (p. 124). But labor historians have well documented how the minute division of work also enabled employers to tighten the screws on those on their payroll.

The book is plentifully and helpfully illustrated with photographs from the extensive collection of the Hawai'i Agriculture Research Center. One unexpected feature of the book's production is the half-dozen or so gray boxes containing extensive quotations from primary sources, such as the travelogues of Isabella Bird or the United States consul Z. S. Spalding. These were enjoyable, and might have been even more frequent, so that readers could have seen how outsiders' observations evolved over the course of the century. More books would benefit from similarly highlighting such sources.

The history of sugar production in the twentieth century, this book reveals,

is deeply scientifically and technically complex. The fate of whole firms and industries came to rest on the subjects daunting to nonspecialists, like biological and chemical properties of fertilizers. By synthesizing so much material, therefore, Jones and Osgood have done many other scholars a tremendous service. Ultimately, though readers expecting a clear narrative will be disappointed after the first two chapters, the book delivers in exchange a series of enormously comprehensive and revealing portraits of the Hawaiian sugar industry at crucial moments in its history.

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Local Story: The Massie-Kahahawai Case and the Culture of History. By John P. Rosa. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2014. xi + 163 pp. Timeline. Notes. Bibliography. Index. $45.00 cloth; $19.99 paper

Historian John Rosa makes a compelling case for returning to the infamous 1930s Massie case that rocked the Hawaiian Islands and garnered national attention. In *Local Story: The Massie-Kahahawai Case and the Culture of History*, Rosa prioritizes a *local* perspective to illustrate how this watershed moment helped form and consolidate a "local" identity. The Massie case centered on Navy wife Thalia Massie's account of being kidnapped and assaulted by "some Hawaiian boys" (p. 1). The case against the defendants ended in a mistrial as a result of contradictory testimony and mishandled evidence. *Local Story* discusses the implications of this trial and events leading to a second trial, which resulted from the kidnapping and murder of one of the defendants, Joseph Kahahawai, by Thalia's mother, her husband, and two Navy men. Found guilty and sentenced to ten years of hard labor, their sentences were commuted to one hour by Governor Lawrence Judd.

Local Story is less about the details of what happened that fateful night or a comprehensive retelling of the trials. In five chapters and a brief introduction and epilogue, Rosa instead "examines the complexities of telling and retelling the case's historical events as a local incident in the islands as opposed to an American one that cast Hawai'i as merely a small outpost of the United States" (p. 3). In addition to centering place, class, and gender in the development of a local identity in Hawai'i, the book uses "local" in several other senses including: foregrounding the perspectives of Hawai'i's people; focusing on